

Renewal and Application of FCC licenses

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Description

Chapter 43.105 RCW, Section 4 (3)(b) outlines the additional duties of the SIEC and its responsibility to the Information Services Board (ISB). This section identifies as a responsibility of the SIEC to "...coordinate and manage on behalf of the board the licensing and use of state-designated and state-licensed radio frequencies..."

Recommendations to the committee

SIEC staff and the SIEC Advisory Working (SAW) Group recommend

1. State agencies are allowed to obtain and renew licenses for spectrum, conditional upon SIEC approval of projects requiring such spectrum.
2. Any license granted under this provision is subject to SIEC policy and authority. The SIEC reserves the right to coordinate and manage on behalf of the ISB the licensing and use of state-designated and state-license radio frequencies.

Status

This recommendation is time sensitive. Unless agencies are given authority to renew licenses for public safety radio spectrum, they will forfeit their licenses, at which point each agency or the SIEC will be required to re-apply for licensing. Upon re-application, there is no guarantee that the frequencies in use now will still be available.

Issues

- State licenses for public safety radio spectrum are expiring.
- Unless agencies are given the authority to renew licenses, they will lose their frequencies and the right to operate public safety radios.
- At this time, the SIEC is not in a position to coordinate radio frequencies on behalf of the state and will not be positioned to handle licensing requirements, until at a minimum; the Final Statewide Plan is approved.
- The Technical/Frequency Management Committee and the SIEC Advisory Committee are discussing the need for a statewide frequency manager position. A frequency manager would eliminate the need for agencies to apply for licenses and make frequency requests individually. The position would assist Washington as it transitions to a narrowband frequency schema and establish new operational efficiencies statewide. It is NOT the intent of this briefing opportunity to ask for a position, however it is the intent of the SIEC to identify this need for future consideration.
- All state licenses for spectrum are made via the Federal Communications Commission and granted to: "State of Washington, Department of XXX."

Background

Since state agencies have always been allowed to license spectrum on behalf of the State of Washington. In order to ensure that spectrum is used most efficiently by all state agencies, chapter 43.105 RCW, Section 4 (3)(b) now makes the coordination and management of state-designated and state-licensed radio frequencies the responsibility of the SIEC.